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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/815,769	04/02/2004	Daisuke Yahata	360842009710	9944

7590 09/04/2007
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EXAMINER

JUSKA, CHERYL

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1771

MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
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09/04/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/815,769	Applicant(s) YAHATA ET AL.	
	Examiner Cheryl Juska	Art Unit 1771	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 22-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 22-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Arguments

1. Applicant's submission filed June 15, 2007, has been entered. No actual amendment to the claims or specification has been filed. Rather applicant traverses the prior art rejections by relying upon the Declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 by Matsumura and the Declaration of Mr. Takehiko Miyoshi filed as part of the submission on June 15, 2007.
2. The Declaration of Mr. Takehiko Miyoshi is sufficient to establish the prior art reference JP 2002-180340 A issued to Matsumura is an invention "by others" as required under 35 USC 102(a). As such, the rejection set forth in section 10 of the last Office Action (Non-Final Rejection mailed 12/15/06) is hereby withdrawn.
3. The Declaration under 37 CFR 1.131 by Matsumura is sufficient to overcome the rejections based upon JP 2002-105750 issued to Okawa et al. as set forth in sections 12 and 13 of the last Office Action.
4. Despite these advances, claims 22-24 are not patentable for the reasons set forth below.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

5. Claims 22-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention as set forth in sections 6-8 of the last Office Action.

Applicant traverses said rejection by asserting that the claim recitation of "an aliphatic polyester multifilament crimped yarn" sets forth "both a description of the composition and the

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structure that produces these [physical] characteristics” (Remarks, page 2, 1st paragraph). This argument is unpersuasive since said recitation of “an aliphatic polyester multifilament crimped yarn” does not provide sufficient clarity of the product that applicant has invented. *Ex parte Slob*, 157 USPQ 172, states, “Claims merely setting forth physical characteristics desired in an article, and not setting forth specific composition which would meet such characteristics, are invalid as vague, indefinite, and functional since they cover any conceivable combination of ingredients either presently existing or which might be discovered in the future and which would impart said desired characteristics.” Also, “it is necessary that the product be described with sufficient particularity that it can be identified so that one can determine what will and will not infringe.” *Benger Labs, Ltd v. R.K. Laros Co.*, 135 USPQ 11, *In re Bridgeford* 149 USPQ 55, *Locklin et al. v. Switzer Bros., Inc.*, 131 USPQ 294. Furthermore, “Reciting the physical and chemical characteristics of the claimed product will not suffice where it is not certain that a sufficient number of characteristics have been recited that the claim reads only on the particular compound which applicant has invented.” *Ex parte Siddiqui*, 156 USPQ 426, *Ex parte Davission et al.*, 133 USPQ 400, *Ex parte Fox*, 128 USPQ 157. Therefore, the 112, 2nd rejection is hereby maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

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(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over WO 00/65140 issued to Matsunaga et al.

Claims 22-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as obvious over US 2003/0152743 issued to Matsunaga et al.

[Note US 2003/0152743 is the English language equivalent of the Japanese language WO 00/65140.]

Matsunaga discloses a tufted carpet comprising a nonwoven base cloth made of a polylactic acid based polymer (abstract). Said polymer has a melting point of at least 100°C, preferably at least 120°C (Matsunaga '743, sections [0014] and [0015]). The tufted carpet may also include a biodegradable pile yarn comprising yarn made of the same polylactic acid based polymer used in the base cloth (section [0051]). In a working embodiment, the pile yarn is made of a polylactic acid copolymer having a melting point of 170°C and is in the form of a crimped multifilament yarn which is tufted into a base cloth made of polylactic acid yarns (i.e., (section [0094] and [0095]).

Thus, the invention of claims 22-24 is taught by the Matsunaga references with the exception of the presently claimed properties of crimp elongation rate, boiling water shrinkage, and breaking strength. Although the references do not explicitly teach said property limitations, it is reasonable to presume that said limitations are inherent to the disclosed Matsunaga invention. Support for said presumption is found in the use of similar materials (i.e., crimped multifilament yarn of polylactic acid having a melting point greater than 130°C) and in the similar production steps (i.e., tufting said crimped multifilament yarn into a base cloth) used to produce the tufted carpet. The burden is upon the applicant to prove otherwise. *In re Fitzgerald*, 205 USPQ 495. In the alternative, the claimed properties would obviously have been provided by the process disclosed by Matsunaga. Note *In re Best*, 195 USPQ 433, footnote 4 (CCPA 1977) as to the providing of this rejection under 35 USC 103 in addition to the rejection made above under 35 USC 102. Therefore, claims 22-24 are rejected as being unpatentable.

Conclusion

9. The art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.
10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Cheryl Juska whose telephone number is 571-272-1477. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday 10am-6pm. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Terrel Morris can be reached at 571-272-1478. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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11. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

/Cheryl Juska/
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1771

cj
September 4, 2007